REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, and 5-15 are now pending.

Claim 1 was objected to because of noted informalities. Claim 1 has been reviewed and revised bearing in mind the Examiner's comments. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Satou. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in respect to the original claims and the independent claims which have been amended above for clarity.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the injector locking portion 52 has two functions: holding the fuel injector and connecting the two distribution pipe portions, each of which is locked onto the distribution pipe. In Satou, these two functions are separately provided by collar portions 22 and connecting member 20b. Thus, in Satou, the collar portions which the Examiner has equated to the claimed injector locking portion do not provide the function of connecting the distribution pipe locking portions 20a.

Claim 1 now more particularly recites that in an embodiment of the invention a single injector locking portion is incorporated in the detachment preventing means, the single injector locking portion continuously extending along the part of the circumferential length of the fuel injector and engaging the lockable injector portion of the fuel injector. In contrast to the invention recited in claim 1, Satou teaches a pair of (two) collar portions 22 holding injector (I) and the side plate portions locked onto the fuel supply ports are formed as an angle bracket with the collar portions. The two angle brackets defined by the collars 22 and plate portions 22a are connected with connecting member 20b which extends in the circumferential direction of injector (I).

Thus, in respect to claim 1, Satou does not disclose a single injector locking portion and two distribution pipe locking portions that extend from respective side portions of the (single) injector locking portion. Instead, as noted above, Satou teaches 2 injector locking portions each having a single distribution pipe locking portion. Because two distribution pipe portions are not provided to extend from respective side portions of a (single) injector locking portion, revised claim 1 and new claim 15 are not anticipated by Satou.

With regard to independent claim 6, claim 6 provides *inter alia* that the fuel outlet port includes a plurality of lockable projections for respectively engaging locking holes of the distribution pipe locking portions, each lockable projection projecting in a radial direction of the fuel outlet port and further either both sides of each lockable projection are in parallel to a diametrical direction of the fuel outlet port or the lockable projections are formed so that the width of the lockable projection gets larger in a radial direction thereof.

Anticipation under Section 102 of the Patent Act requires that a prior art reference disclose every claim element of the claimed invention. See, e.g., Orthokinetics, Inc. v. Safety Travel Chairs, Inc., 806 F.2d 1565, 1574 (Fed. Cir. 1986). While other references may be used to interpret an allegedly anticipating reference, anticipation must be found in a single reference. See, e.g., Studiengesellschaft Kohle, G.m.b.H. v. Dart Indus., Inc., 726 F.2d 724, 726-27 (Fed. Cir. 1984). The absence of any element of the claim from the cited reference negates anticipation. See, e.g., Structural Rubber Prods. Co. v. Park Rubber Co., 749 F.2d 707, 715 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Anticipation is not shown even if the differences between the claims and the prior art reference are insubstantial and the missing elements could be supplied by the knowledge of one skilled in the art. See, e.g., Structural Rubber Prods., 749 F.2d at 716-17.

In Satou, there is no teaching or suggestion of a plurality of lockable projections that project in a radial direction and have parallel sides or radially flaring sides as recited in claim 6. Rather, Satou teaches only circumferential lip 17 for engaging the locking holes 21 of the Satou connecting member 20. Because no locking projections meeting the limitations of claim 6 are taught by Satou, a rejection under 35 USC 102(b) cannot be sustained. The invention claimed is not obvious from Satou either as the Examiner has cited no teaching motivating the skilled artisan to modify Satou so as to meet the limitations of applicant's claim 6.

New dependent claim 11 further characterizes the fuel supply unit of claim 6 as including an injector locking portion which continuously extends along a part of a circumferential length of the fuel injector and further that the distribution pipe locking portions each extend from a side portion of the injector locking portion towards the fuel outlet. No such structure is taught or suggested by Satou either.

Claim 8 is also submitted to be patentable over Satou inasmuch as claim 8 requires that the fuel distribution pipe include a plurality of radially extending engagement parts, whereas Satou provides only the circumferential flange lip 17. Claim 8 further requires that the clip have engagement parts extending in a longitudinal direction of the fuel injector and an injector locking part connecting bottom ends of the pipe locking parts and extending in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the fuel injector. In contrast, the only part connecting the so-called engagement parts 20a of Satou is component 20b which as clearly disclosed in Satou is not disposed at a bottom side of the engagement part of the fuel injector, since part 20b is disposed above such engagement part. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 8 is not anticipated either.

New independent claim 11 specifically characterizes (1) the fuel injector as having a pair of flat side walls, (2) the locking component as including an injector locking portion formed to bind the two flat side walls in a circumferential direction of

the fuel injector and (3) the distribution pipe locking portions as extending from a respective side portion of the injector locking portion towards the fuel outlet. None of these limitations is met by Satou nor obvious from Satou's teachings.

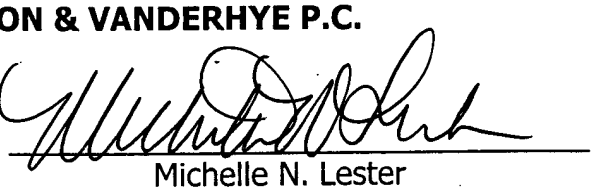
Further, according to new claim 11, two flat surfaces on the sides of the injector are retained by the injector locking portion 52 thereby to prevent rotational movement between the injector and the delivery pipe. In Satou, flange 17 formed on the fuel supply port 16 and a positioning projection 13 formed on the injector I engage each other to fix the rotational orientation and prevent the rotational movement of the injector. Clearly in this regard, the structure of Satou is not only different from the claimed invention, but is necessarily provided as a separate component such that the advantages of the invention cannot be realized.

For all the reasons advanced above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection based on Satou is requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Michelle N. Lester
Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100